

**West Virginia State University
Academic Affairs
Faculty Senate Report**

**Friday, November 4, 2011
R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs**

With the **new class time schedule** implemented for the 2012 Spring Semester, attention and concern now turns to faculty office coverage throughout the week. The Academic Policies Committee of the Board of Governors has expressed the concern that WVSU does not become a campus where faculty are unavailable to our students all of the days of the week. This will be a challenge with which Departments will be asked to work as we reap the benefits of the new M-W morning class time slots.

The **Center for Instructional Technology** is considering implementation of a new syllabus format to be used for Web 80 and 100 courses. The purpose of the new format will ensure students know what is expected and how they will be assessed because there is no – or virtually no – face-to-face time with them; the syllabi will include learning objectives and student outcomes tied to course assignments.

In response to an inquiry of the number of hours that must be taken at WVSU to earn a post-graduate certificate, the Deans Council moved, seconded, and passed the recommendation that the **residence requirements** for a certificate should be that at least 60% of the required hours in the certificate must be taken at WVSU. This would apply to certificates offered by both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Deans Council met with Department Chairs and members of the **Faculty Senate Honors Program Committee** to discuss details of the program, which has developed from an initiative begun last academic year. Some students have been admitted to the program for the 2012 Spring Semester; the Deans have recommended the honors courses designated for spring is classified as "pilot" courses in anticipation of full-scale implementation of the program for the 2012 Fall Semester. It is anticipated students in the honors program will take two honors courses per semester and a total of 15 credit hours during their University career. Certain sections of general education courses have been identified as "honors" sections; the next step is to develop the Honors capstone courses, which may be additional course assignments in existing courses rather than separate sections. Qualifications for the honors program for a current student is a University GPA of ≥ 3.5 ; entering students must have an ACT composite score of 26 and eligible for college level Math and English courses. The WVSU Foundation has said once the program is developed they would assist honors students with some minimal amount of book money – perhaps \$100 or \$200.

The **Director of the Collaborative School** discussed the program, which is housed on our campus in Room 302 of Ferrell Hall. Students with high academic qualifications are permitted to apply to the program where they may take college courses on our campus which are transferred back to their high schools to satisfy graduation requirements. A maximum of 64 students are permitted in the program; currently there are 58. Students must be from a Kanawha County high school and be recommended for the program by their high school principal or counselor.

Orientation for new and transfer students will occur on Saturday morning, November 12, from 9:00 to 12:30. Students who have been admitted for the 2012 Spring Semester are notified of the Orientation and the process to register for the session. The WVSU homepage has all of the information behind the "New Student Advising & Registration" icon.

Academic Affairs officials at the HEPC continue to reiterate to institutions the necessity to move toward implementing **120 credit hours** as the standard requirement for a bachelor's degree. The Office of Academic Affairs is working with the General Education Advisory Committee to evaluate whether or not some modifications can be made to general education requirements to aid Departments in achieving the maximum 120 credit hour directive. Some variances from the 120 credit hour requirement will be permitted in the case of accredited programs.